VALIANT
OCT. NO. 5
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VALIANT
=VOICE=
DEATHMATE™ IS HERE!
THE DEATHMATE™ CREW SPEAKS
MORE INFO ON THE VALIANT READER
VALIANT COLORING CHALLENGE WINNERS!

VALIANT Voice

VOLUME NUMBER ONE
ISSUE NUMBER FIVE

AN UPDATE WITH

Unless you're a hermit hiding in some dark, secluded cave, you have no doubt heard of this summer's premiere event: the VALIANT/IMAGE crossover – ***DEATHMATE!*** Released throughout June, July, August and September, the six part epic will feature a host of the comic industry's greatest creators - Bob Layton, Jim Lee, Rob Liefeld, Joe Quesada, Marc Silvestri, Scott Williams and Barry Windsor-Smith - as well as the prolific talent pool from each company.

DEATHMATE PROLOGUE ($4.95 retail - solicited by VALIANT) starts the wheels in motion, presenting the events that bring together the VALIANT and Image universes and sets the premise for the series. In the year 3000, Solar splits into two beings, and one of these (dubbed Solar the Explorer) travels back in time to probe other dimensions (a scene first presented in VALIANT's comparatively *RAI* #0 comic). While wandering through unreality, this Solar meets Void, a cosmic-powered female character from Jim Lee's WILDCATS, and they fall in love. Their chance encounter causes both beings' universes to collide and meld together. Space and time are warped, and the past and present are transformed to reflect this modified universe. Worse yet, their meeting has logjammed the time flow so that the future beyond the year 3000 has simply ceased to exist. Featuring the talents of Bob Layton, Jim Lee, Rob Liefeld and Barry Windsor-Smith, this is the issue everyone will be asking for.

The next four issues, two produced by VALIANT and two produced by Image, will be 48-page perfect-bound books. They will be color coded instead of numbered because, as VALIANT's Senior Vice-President Jon Haris put it, "they [the stories] can be read in any order. All are independent of the others, but are set in this altered universe."

DEATHMATE YELLOW ($4.95 retail - solicited by VALIANT) will have four stories from across the ***DEATHMATE*** universe and feature both VALIANT and Image characters. ***Iron & Armstrong*** by Mike Baron, Bernard Chang and Rodney Ramos has the brothers encounter Kemp and a temporal wave that is destroying the future. In ***Ninjak/Zealot*** by Jorge Gonzalez, Don Perlin and Mike Manley the HARDCATS organization sends Zealot to kill Two Hands, but Hands's bodyguard - Ninjak - intercepts her. ***HARDCATS*** by David Michelinie, Mike Lackey and Tom Lyle has the organization launch an all out assault on Hercules with disastrous results. The final chapter of this issue, ***Shadowman/Grifter/Hunter Darque/Deathstrike*** by Bob Hall, Mark Moretti and John Dixon has Grifter battling the mysterious Obadiah Archer to save Shadowman. But Master Darque has learned of the damage occurring to the time line, and he and Doctor Eclipse work to make it permanent!

DEATHMATE BLACK ($4.95 retail - solicited by Image) features the artwork of Jim Lee and Marc Silvestri and the rest of the Homage Studios crew. In this jam-packed issue, Union encounters the incongruities of this new time line, becoming aware of the impending disaster awaiting the universe. The issue will also feature VALIANT characters X-O Manowar, Ninjak the Eternal Warrior, and Turok. ***DEATHMATE RED*** ($4.95 retail - solicited by IMAGE) has Rob Liefeld and the Extreme Studios gang giving us the battle everyone has been waiting for - Youngblood versus Bloodshot!!! These two rockin' issues are sure to be non-stop emotional roller coasters that will leave the readers on the edge of their seats until the last climactic panel!

DEATHMATE BLUE ($4.95 retail - solicited by VALIANT) gives another four significant on the Deathmate universe. ***Magnus/Battlestone*** by John Ostrander, Jim Calafiore and Ralph Reese, is set in the near future with the bounty hunter Battlestone trying to bring in the rogue Magnus. ***Livewire/Stronghold/Striker/Impact*** by Joe St. Pierre, Sean Chen and Kathryn Hollinger has the foursome sent on a dangerous mission for the U.S. Government against Hagala and his lieutenant - flying ***Harbinger/Brigade*** by Maurice Vallencourt, Howard Simpson and Gonzalo Mayo finishes the storyline as Geoff the Geomancer tries to convince Toyo Harada of the disaster about to befall the universe. The final chapter, ***Solar/Supreme*** by Kevin VanHook, Peter Gross and Jimmy Palmiotti, has VALIANT's Man of the Atom seeking Solar's help in stopping DEATHMATE before it ever happened!

DEATHMATE EPILOGUE ($2.95 retail - solicited by Image) forever separates the two continuities in one universe-shattering finale. Bob Layton, Marc Silvestri, Joe Quesada and Scott Williams continue to provide a story that will resolve all the plot lines established in the prologue. Solar, Supreme and Union travel through time to attempt to prevent Solar the Explorer and Void from ever meeting, but Master Darque and Doctor Eclipse have other plans.

Comics' greatest creators, the two hottest companies, and the industry's most interesting characters collide to produce the event of the summer. Be sure to catch ***DEATHMATE*** before it all passes you by!

Your Guide to the Valiant Universe...

"Think of it as *Soap Opera Digest* for the VALIANT universe," said VALIANT Senior Vice-President Jon Haris in reference to the ***VALIANT READER.*** A quick and handy guide to the VALIANT continuity, the book is an opportunity for both new readers and existing VALIANT fans to experience the entire VALIANT universe. This 32-page, full-process color comic will feature a synopsis and chronological update of all the major characters currently inhabiting the VALIANT universe. It will also explain the characters' relationships to each other as well as give hints and glimpses of what will happen over the next year. VALIANT is producing this update as a comprehensive and inexpensive way to discover the history of all the important characters and events within the VALIANT universe to date.

The ***VALIANT READER*** will feature an all-new cover depicting major characters in the VALIANT Universe drawn by Bernard Chang, preview art for the upcoming ***THE SECOND LIFE OF DOCTOR MIRAGE #1***. Inside the ***VALIANT READER*** will be 32 pages of art and editorial (no ads), all in color. The retail price for this amazing package will be .75¢ ($.85¢ Canadian). Every regular VALIANT title and its characters will be profiled in a double-page spread format, with a few secondary and upcoming characters featured together on single pages throughout the book. Meant as a supplement and not a collectible, the ***VALIANT READER*** will have an "extended first print run" to keep this valuable reference item in stock and available throughout the summer.

The ***VALIANT READER*** — another weapon in VALIANT's arsenal to help promote readership. Designed to entice new readers and enhance the reading pleasure of the VALIANT line of comics, fans will use and reuse this resource for months to come.

EDITORIAL

My Week As An Image Guy

I was in Key West, Florida when the call came through.

"Rob Liefeld is running a little late and they need you to go to California to finish the inking on the Deathmate Prologue," said Tony Isabella, my trusted Editorial Coordinator.

"But Tony -- I'm on vacation!" I exclaimed. (See this month's *Coach's Corner.*)

Needless to say – "the show must go on," so after a frantic flight back to New York and a quick repacking of my bags – off I went to Imageland.

Upon my arrival at the ultra-modern Image Facilities, I was warmly met by Publisher Tony Lobito, who apprised me of the current situation and gave me a quick tour of the offices.

With pages in hand, I returned to my hotel room to work. (I couldn't work up at the Extreme Studios; they have too many toys. I would have spent too much time playing around.)

It was my second night in my *lonely* hotel room that I received a call from Image regulars Eric Stevenson and Dan Fraga, inviting me to dinner.

I accepted, of course, and we had a great time swapping stories and woofing down pasta.

On the third day, I got a call from the Homage Studio folks, inviting me down to San Diego to discuss the first chapter of the Deathmate Prologue. Even though it was a two-hour drive from my *lonely* hotel room (each way)

– I accepted, of course.

I had a wonderful evening with Jim Lee, Mark Silvestri and Cynthia Sullivan — swapping stories and woofing down pasta. (A pattern was beginning to emerge. . .eh?)

On the last day of my adventure in Imageland, I had time to actually sit down and chat with the Rob-Master for a time. We swapped stories for a while but, alas – no pasta was involved.

To make a long story short, "the show went on." The Prologue was completed and I then flew off to Atlanta, Georgia to attend the Diamond Distributor Conference to receive the award (with my partners Steve Massarsky and Jon Haris) for **Publisher of the Year.**

I accepted, of course.

At the banquet that evening, pasta was served.

Oh, well. . .

Bob Layton
Editor-In-Chief

THE DEATHMATE POSSE

The DEATHMATE Tour is ready to launch and the excitement is building at the VALIANT office. The VALIANT Voice decided to talk to the contributing artists as they prepared for their last tour, which will carry them throughout the United States and will give the fans an opportunity to meet the artists at their local comic book stores.

Considering the impossibility of sitting all of them down together, ("Deadlines!") we hunted each down and got them to comment on DEATHMATE, the Tour, and traveling to parts of the country some have never heard of before.

We spoke with Bob Layton, Kevin VanHook, Jorge Gonzalez, Tom Ryder, Joe St. Pierre, Mike Lecke, Maurice Fontenot, Sean Chen, Yvel Guichet and Kathryn Bolinger.

VV: *What would you like the readers to get from DEATHMATE?*

BL: I would like the readers to get the same "sense of wonder" from this saga as we had creating it. Everyone involved displayed extraordinary enthusiasm over this project and I hope the readers feel that when they read *DEATHMATE*.

KV: The wonder of imagination. We've taken two totally disparate universes and molded them in a story that works. Everything is expanded as you see the piece progressing to inevitable conclusion.

ML: A great story and fabulous artwork.

TR: I hope they enjoy seeing the VALIANT and Image characters in our amalgamated universe and by different creative teams.

JSP: A fabulous good read – it'll be better than living at DisneyWorld!

MF: *DEATHMATE* is an opportunity for us to play with our characters a little bit, and place them in a new context. I'd like to think that the readers will get a kick out of seeing both the characters and the creators break out of the mold a little.

YG: See, feel and get a kick over the greatest crossover ever. That's what the "ValMage" universe is for, isn't it?

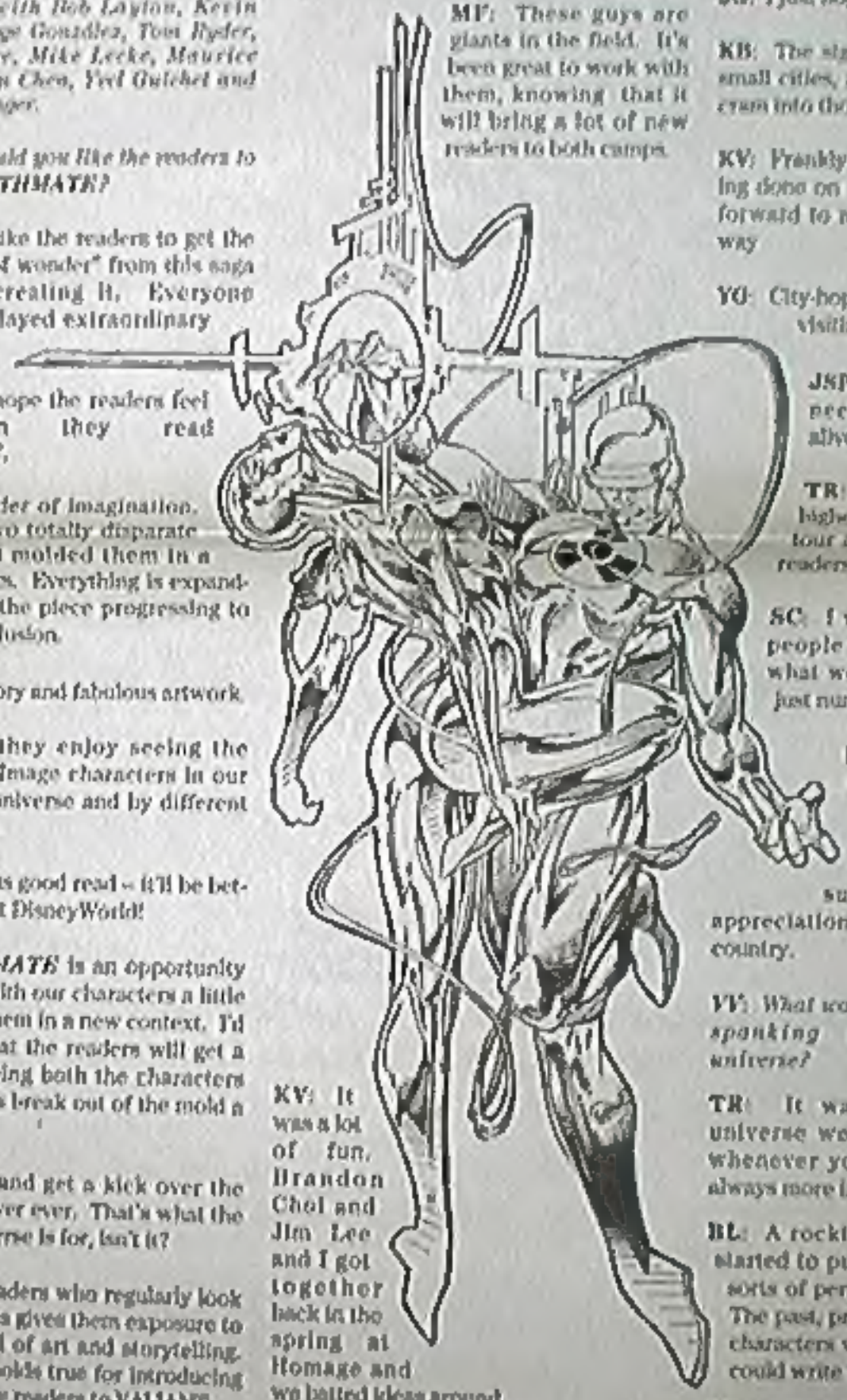
SC: For the readers who regularly look at VALIANT, this gives them exposure to a different kind of art and storytelling. And the same holds true for introducing exclusive Image readers to VALIANT.

JG: Hopefully, it will leave Image readers not familiar with the VALIANT universe with a desire to pick up our regular books. And vice versa, *DEATHMATE* provides a good opportunity for people to get a quick peek at what each company has to offer. Bottom line though, I just hope that readers will be entertained and feel that they've gotten their money's worth.

VV: *How did you like working with the Image gang?*

JG: I think it provided a great opportunity for both groups to share ideas and compare different approaches to our work.

BL: They were terrific to work with. I have enjoyed my association with Jim, Marc and Rob very much and appreciate the respect they've shown me and VALIANT.



MF: These guys are giants in the field. It's been great to work with them, knowing that it will bring a lot of new readers to both camps.

KV: It was a lot of fun. Brandon Choi and Jim Lee and I got together back in the spring at Homage and we batted ideas around.

JSP: Those Image guys...I can't think of a better group of people to be crammed in a bus with...please, shoot me, now.

ML: Actually, I had no interaction with any of the Image gang.

KB: I didn't actually work hands-on with any of the Image artists, but I did meet a few. Interesting bunch. I admire Jim Lee's work and it was enlightening to speak with him in person.

VV: *What are your expectations for the bus tour?*

MF: It's bound to be pretty hectic. I'll be happy if I get a window seat!

ML: I'm really looking forward to seeing parts of the country I've never been to. I hope to have a great time and I believe the fans will get a big kick out of this tour.

JG: I just hope that everyone ladies.

KB: The sights, the sounds, big cities, small cities, and as much sleep as I can cram into those long miles.

KV: Frankly, I hope to get a lot of writing done on the bus. I'm really looking forward to meeting the fans along the way.

YG: City-hopping in a *mobile cabin* and visiting other cities!

JSP: I want to get to where I need to go and come back alive.

TR: I have nothing but the highest expectations for the bus tour and getting out to meet the readers.

SC: I would like to meet all the people who take an interest in what we do, so that they are not just numbers and statistics.

BL: Basically – to have fun. I want all the VALIANT fans out there to know that this was our way of celebrating our success and showing our appreciation to our fans all over the country.

VV: *What was it like to create a brand spanking new VALIANT/Image universe?*

TR: It was a change from the universe we normally work in and whenever you shake things up, it's always more interesting.

BL: A rockin' good ride!! Once we started to put the pieces together, all sorts of permutations began to occur. The past, present and future of all our characters were now a blank slate we could write upon.

JG: It was kinda neat being able to play around with both universes. It's always nice to be able to give established characters a twist.

SC: What a blast! We created something entirely new. The dark ominous setting was an intriguing

DEATHMATE interview cont'd on page 7

VALIANT.

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VOICE MAIL

Please address all correspondence to:
VALIANT VOICE™
c/o VOYAGER COMMUNICATIONS INC.
275 Seventh Ave.
New York, NY 10001

Dear VALIANT

I have great news! The other day, my dad came up to my room and saw me reading ***RAI***. He said to me I should study rather than read comics. He took away all my comics and said he would give them back only if I start studying. So I studied and studied. When I got my report card, I go three A's. My dad was pleased and gave my comic books back.

Now that I have my comics back, I read them again. My dad saw me reading them and said to me, "I will collect comics with you if you will let me read one of your comics, and if I enjoy it." So I gave it a shot, and gave him ***X-O MANOWAR*** #15. I read mine, and he read his. We both talked about the heroes that we liked, and his favorite hero is ***TUROK, DINOSAUR HUNTER*** and mine is ***MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER***.

Your #1 Fan,
David Kim
Poughkeepsie, NY

V.V: Great going, David!! You should be incredibly proud of yourself...three A's are no small feat. And getting parents to read the things that interest their children is a promotion we always love to hear about. Keep up the good work...maybe you can get your dad interested in slam dancing next!!

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Dear VALIANT:

On a recent venture to my favorite comic bookstore, TIWIP Comics, I purchased, along with other titles of yours, ***SHADOWMAN*** #16 and VALIANT Voice #2. Inside ***SHADOWMAN*** #16, I noticed the guest appearances of two of my favorite heroes—***TUROK, DINOSAUR HUNTER***, and my relative, Crazy Horse, one of the greatest Sioux Warriors. It made me proud to read his reaction to Shadowman's challenge. I feel that is just how he would have reacted if the situation came up. Pass the word to Mr. Hall that his scripting was excellent. It truly embodies Crazy Horse's beliefs.

I then read VALIANT Voice #2, only to find out that Turok is from the Black Hills, where my mother, grandmother, and relatives lived for quite some time. One question I have is: What specific group is he from?

Crazy Horse and my mother's side of the family are mostly Oglala Sioux, different from the Honkpapa. It would be interesting to see if Turok is Oglala!

So, in closing, I would like to say that it's obvious you all, but nothing less than 110% into all of your titles. You can tell when a company really cares about what they put out.

Again, good luck in the future. I plan to continue reading for a long time to come!

Sincerely,
Edward Jolie

V.V: Thanks for the great letter. All our writers are very dedicated to keeping the characters true to their identities. Turok's upbringing is of a proud but honorable warrior, and Bob Hall did a great job of portraying that. Realism is a thing we strive for...and we like to hear about fans having actual ties to our characters. But, for the record, Turok is from the Kiowa tribe of the Black Hills.

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VALIANT Crew:

I would like to tell you about my family's very large and caring way of promoting Valiant. We volunteer for RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) in the South Bronx. All three of us go down to the public schools once a week and go to our selected classrooms and read with the students. We used to read books for children until Jacob, who is 16 years old, decided to bring in ***X-O MANOWAR***. The kids loved it.

So to make it short, I read them ***HARBINGER***. Jacob reads ***X-O MANOWAR***, and Debbie reads ***ETERNAL WARRIOR***. Each class has between 20-30 kids, so they all get a comic (we pay for them), and we go around the room reading aloud.

I dropped out of school when I was 15 and have since gotten my GED. I now own an ambulance company in the Bronx. Kids down there have it hard and don't care about Shakespeare or Hemingway. Valiant has action they can relate to and stick with. If any other people are interested in RIF, I'll be happy to set them up with coupons and schedules. Keep them printing, and I'll keep them reading!

Thank You,
Ken Morrison
Peekskill, NY

P.S. We buy over 100 VALIANT titles each month!

V.V: Wow! What a great way to promote good reading skills, and VALIANT. Others talk about doing things to help others, but the fact that you're actually doing it is phenomenal. All of us at Valiant want to thank you for including us in such a worthwhile endeavor. Keep up the great work!

• • •

Dear Valiant:

In the past couple of months I've seen a few corrections, I applaud the team at VALIANT Comics for simply putting out excellent stories with excellent art. I am a big fan of ***SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM*** and ***X-O MANOWAR***, and I read these books, along with many of your others, regularly.

Although I am getting sick of nuclear, die-cut, laser beam hole, glow-in-the-dark, metallic foil, thermal ink, . . . etc, etc, etc . . . covers, I did enjoy the way that you used the chromium covers on ***BLOODSHOT*** and ***TUROK, DINOSAUR HUNTER***. I think that if a cover idea is original, like your chromium idea was, it has the right to be shown.

I'm going to keep this short, because I don't want to interfere with any upcoming projects going on over there at VALIANT. But let me say that you are definitely the next big power in the comic book world, and if the major companies don't watch out, they'll be wondering what hit them when VALIANT rolls over them and goes flying into the top spot.

Thank you for your excellence!

Valiantly yours,
Mark Gagnon
Wilbraham, MA

V.V: Mark, thanks for your support and the feedback on our covers. As you may already know, we're conducting a poll on whether or not to continue the embossed covers...so it's all in the hands of the fans now.

NEWS FLASH

SHADOWMAN GETS ROCKED!

Watch out, ***SHADOWMAN*** fans! In July, Jack Boniface teams up with America's premiere rock and roll band—Aerosmith! So what's new in the supernatural world, the band makes a great appearance on the pages of Shadowman #18. Written and pencilled by Bob Hall, ***SHADOWMAN*** #18 follows Jack's exploits as he comes to the rescue of lead singer, Steven Tyler, who is not quite himself these days. Frankly Earth, really our interest are product-ing that Jack is in for a rocking good time. Watch for a true story on the Aerosmith/***SHADOWMAN*** special issue in next month's VALIANT Voice.

CONVENTION UPDATE

'Tis the season for the VALIANT staff to hit the road. Along with the ***DEATHMATE*** Tour, the artists and staff at VALIANT will be attending a slew of conventions this summer. We love to meet you, the fans, who give us your overwhelming support. So, if you live in the area or are in need of a road trip, stop by the VALIANT booth at:

July 2 - 4, 1993
Chicago Comic Con
Chicago, IL

July 16 - 18, 1993
DragonCon
Atlanta, GA

July 9 - 11, 1993
Rosemont, IL

July 23 - 25, 1993
Rosemont Hotel
Chicago, IL

TOOT - TOOT

We humbly announce that at the annual Diamond Distributors Conference, VALIANT was voted by retailers as ***Publisher of the Year*** and ***BLOODSHOT*** was named ***Best Concept and Best Book over $3.00***. Don Perlin, the penciller of ***BLOODSHOT***, refuses to let this go to his head and has only asked to be called a god and not the God. Thanks go out to all the fans and retailers who have voted for us.

CONGRATULATIONS

Hearty congratulations go out to Don Perlin and family on the birth of grandchild, Maxwell Frederick Blumenthal. Born April 6, 1993, Maxwell joins Joshua, Adam and Brittney in becoming the lucky heirs to Don's ***BLOODSHOT*** heritage.

VALIANT ART TOUR

Rolling right along is the VALIANT Traveling Art Tour, and it's getting a tremendous response along the way. The next stops are:

June 18 - 20, 1993
The Comic Strip
1581 Cobalt Valley Rd
Folsom, IL
(916) 933-6969

July 3 - 17, 1993
Starlost X 2
829 Sand Lake Rd
Orlando, FL
(407) 240-7660

VALIANT COLORI

COLIN MACNEIL
-FIRST PLACE-

OLIVIER RIVARD
-SECOND PLACE-

The Knob Row Colorists had a busy month in May. In addition to bringing you the great colors in all the books, they also took time out of their busy schedules to choose the winners of the VALIANT coloring challenge. It was a tough job — there were hundreds of great entries to choose from. The four winners above are the results of a painstaking effort to choose the best.

The Knobs looked for coloring with an edge—the kind of coloring VALIANT readers want to see in their favorite VALIANT titles. Emphasizing that a colorist is as much a part of the storytelling process as the writer, penciller, or inker, the guys and girls looked for examples where the coloring added to the story.

First-place winner Colin MacNeil took the first extra step with an unusual choice of colors. The colorists say that Colin really knows how to create a mood. Everyone agreed that "Colin's creative use of highlights and mixed media made Magnus pop. He really stood out."

All of the colorists complemented second-place winner, Olivier Rivard's airbrush work. Olivier's airbrushing shows that good coloring creates textures as well as pencils or inks. The knobs have a tip for aspiring colorists: "Beefing up Magnus's and 1-A's armor would have pulled them out front a little more, and darker

RING CHALLENGE

TIMOTHY STILES
-THIRD PLACE-

JERRY MISKO
-FOURTH PLACE-

JOSHUA SPIERS
-HONORABLE MENTION-

darks in the foreground would add more depth."

Timothy Stiles, our third-place winner, used his colors to enhance the picture. Knob Row had much to say about this winner, saying aspiring colorists could learn a lot from him. "Nice use of markers and pencils to create different textures. Great skies and smoke. He went into the blacks with pencils to add depth to Magnus. This is a really 3-D Magnus because Timothy's colors give the figure form."

Fourth-place winner Jerry Misko showed great technique. The colorists noted, "VALIANT doesn't use markers, but if Jerry switched mediums, his technique is so good that with paints, his stuff would really shine." Everyone complemented Jerry's attention to detail but added that all colorists should shy away from elaborate backgrounds that take attention away from the main figure. The Knobs continued, "If Jerry popped the colors near the bottom, it would separate planes and bring Magnus out more."

All in all, the whole batch of entries was great! Honorable mentions go to VALIANT's youngest fan, two-and-a-half-year-old Joshua Spiers, who will take his seat on Knob Row sooner than one might think. Thanks to everyone who participated, and look forward to VALIANT's next coloring challenge.

A View from Within

Before I attempt to describe an average day here at VALIANT, it would be necessary to say that most of us here love our work. I don't think anyone, myself included, would last long in comics if they didn't! Comic books are full of action, and working in comics can be action-packed as well. Almost all of us had jobs that we hated. After all, how many people are lucky enough to make a living doing what they love to do? Aside from maybe being an attack helicopter pilot, which happened to be my last job, and the only other thing I would be happy doing. To borrow a phrase from the Army, "It's not just a job, it's an adventure."

Our office doesn't sizzle until the afternoon, but work begins at 9:00 a.m. Although the atmosphere here is fun, the emphasis is on hard work. The tight deadlines keep every person in the office perpetually busy. The first people in are Jade Moede and Scott Friedlander. Scott arrives early just so he can pre-load the stereo with his personal selections of blues, jazz, or something that I would swear sounds like the funky jungle rhythms you would hear in an old Tarzan movie. Slowly but surely, Knob Row comes to life. The requests for pages to color are never far behind. A generally chaotic atmosphere begins to buzz around the office with the ringing phones and the people scurrying to and from the photocopy machines. Every sheet of paper, every inked board and every little detail is vital to the smooth flow of the office. I'll freely admit that days are often hectic here, but it can also be said that there is never a dull moment. Every day the office is filled with highly respected professionals such as Bob Layton, Kevin VanHook, and Mark Moretti, to name just a few. The talent and experience collected in this office is impressive, especially to someone who considers himself a "fan," as I do. In writing this column, the one thing I've learned is that there really is no such thing as an "average" day here at VALIANT.

On another note, last month in "A View From Within," I jokingly suggested that Bloodshot may have been designed after his penciller, Don Perlin. Little did I know, I was on to something. We have recently discovered a rare graduation photo of Uncle Don that reveals where the idea for Bloodshot may have really come from! ☺

This month's "Did You Know" is about RAI penciller, Sean Chen. Did you know Sean was discovered at the San Diego Comic Convention last year by Steve Massarsky and Barry Windsor-Smith? Sean was confident in his work and was very persistent in showing his portfolio. So don't lose faith if your dream is to be a penciler – keep showing your work and maybe even Sean himself will be the one to check out your stuff one day!

ADS

Darren Sanchez
Production Manager

INQUIRING VOICES

Is the split Solar from Issue #23 the one involved with the Image™ character, Void™, in DEATHMATE™?

Talk about your split personalities -- Solar has split once, in ***SOLAR*** #23, to create Solar the Destroyer, and has (will?) split again in the future, to create Solar the Explorer. It's the explorer, the Solar shown in ***RAI*** #0 splitting off after Gail's death, that becomes involved with Void. Why does Solar keep splitting like this in times of severe trauma? Well, remember that Solar started out as a composite being -- the Phil Seleski from this Earth, the original Phil Seleski from the collapsed Earth, and the heroic Dr. Solar persona that sprang from the original Phil's mind. So after two splits, he's back where he started from. Weaker, but perhaps a little more stable.

VALIANT TRIVIA QUIZ

Last month we put together a few questions to test your knowledge of the VALIANT universe. Listed below are the answers.

1) In ***ARCHER & ARMSTRONG #1***, Armstrong told Archer that Gilad flew a P-38 **Lockheed Lightning** during World War II.

2) In their first ever meeting in ***BLOODSHOT #2***, **Bloodshot** cut off Ax's **left arm**.

3) In ***X-O MANOWAR #10***, it was revealed that **Randy** worked for the **Canadian Secret Service** before she became Ord Industries' security chief.

4) **Mekman** was introduced as the new villain in ***MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER #27***.

5) **Colin King** was introduced in ***BLOODSHOT #6*** (it wasn't until the next issue that he was seen in his "Ninjak" identity).

6) The ***UNITY*** saga lasted **158 days**.

7) **Hotshot, Perp and Wipeout** were introduced as H.A.R.D. Corps' "B-Team" in ***H.A.R.D.CORPS #8***.

8) In ***HARBINGER #16***, **Torquemada** accidently absorbed and killed **Bazooka**.

9) The Circumlocutors and their ship, the **Rocket**, were introduced in ***RAI AND THE FUTURE FORCE #12***.

10) **Commander Sirot** and his C.I.A. Tactical Team were first introduced in ***X-O MANOWAR #10***.

11) Seen most recently in ***ARCHER & ARMSTRONG #12***, **Silvio** tends bar at "End Of Th' World."

12) In ***TUROK, DINOSAUR HUNTER #1***, it was **Serita** who helped nurse Turok back to health.

13) Arle's exact age is **3,191 years old**, as revealed in last month's issue of VALIANT Voice (just checking to see if you were really paying attention).

Answer to Bonus Question: **Erica Pierce killed Erica Pierce.** "Say what?," you ask. In ***SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM #11***, Erica Pierce from Solar's original universe killed her "current Earth" counterpart, then ran off with her son, Albert, starting the events in motion that would lead to ***UNITY***.

SCORING
The correct answer to each question is worth one point, with the bonus question worth two points. Total up your score and compare it with the listings below to see how you did.

13+ points: *Congratulations! You are a card-carrying VALIANTOLOGIST, privy to great secrets and trader of the best comics around. Do something nice for yourself...you deserve it!*

10-12 points: *You really know your VALIANT trivia! Keep honing those skills...you never know when such things will come in handy.*

7-9 points: *Not bad. A little more practice and you'll be ready for the pros!*

4-6 points: *You must not have been feeling well when you took the quiz...read two Solars and try again in the morning.*

1-3 points: *Get hold of a VALIANT READER and start studying...you'll have to do a lot better to make it in this league!*

0 points: *Shame on you — You Don't Read VALIANT Comics! Say fifteen "HRAI"s and get to a comic shop right away!*

Deathmate Interview continued from page 2

backdrop for our heroes to collide in. Also, there is some exciting chemistry between the mixes of heroes and villains from both universes.

KB: Having so many exciting characters together at once created a wonderful set of possibilities. Things really happened! I'd love to see the titans of VALIANT and Image clash again in the future.

YG: It wasn't my idea, but I would have thought of it.

ML: As a penciller, I was very excited about merging the two universes because there are some very interesting visuals that can be combined. ***H.A.R.D.C.A.T.S.*** is a mixture of gritty hard-hitting action and slick-looking characters.

JST: I was totally psyched...their characters are so out there...it's nice to go bananas, creatively, once in a while.

KV: Exciting. I worked closely with Maurice and Joe to keep our stories very tight. Bob's great at building continuity and it showed up in the ***DEATHMATE*** Universe.

MP: It's been a rare opportunity to reinvent things from the ground up. Normally, we have to maintain a lot of continuity, from book to book and issue to issue; that's what holds our universe together. But it's nice to leave those restrictions behind.

VV: *Other than the stories you worked on, what* ***DEATHMATE*** *stories are you looking forward to?*

WL: ***H.A.R.D.C.A.T.S.*** and ***MAGNUS/RATTLESTONE*** because they both have very different realities than their VALIANT counterparts.

KV: ***MAGNUS/RATTLESTONE.*** It's rare that a writer/artist team can infuse the same kind of energy into this kind of project that they do in their regular books. These are only ten-page stories. Ostrander and company did a great job!

JG: I can't wait to read all the parts together in one setting!

JSP: The ***DEATHMATE*** swimsuit issue. ***H.A.R.D.C.A.T.S.*** by Michelinie and Leeke.

ML: I'm looking forward to seeing what Jim Lee and Marc Silvestri will be doing with our characters; especially Gunslinger, HotShot, Superstar and X-O Manowar.

YG: The Epilogue.

KB: I'm most interested in ***ETERNAL WARRIOR*** and ***SHADOWMAN*** – I'm a die-hard New Orleans fan.

SC: Jim Lee's work. I've been a fan of his for a long time. And, of course, Barry Windsor-Smith's art in the Prologue.

TR: X-O is being used by Image and since I work on X-O here at VALIANT, I'm interested in seeing how they handle him.

MP: It really all hangs together as a package, so, I can't single out any particular stories. With my work out of the way, I'm just looking forward to seeing each and every creative team pick up the ball and really run with it!

TIMELINE OF THE VALIANT UNIVERSE

Phil Sheldon, alone and disoriented after destroying his universe, learns the Phil Sheldon from our world, and accidentally revives his hero, Dr. Solar.

JAN. 1991

JUNE 1991

MAR. 1992

MAR. 1992

APR. 1992

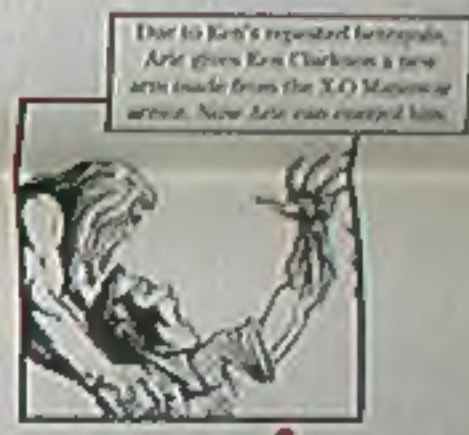
CONTINUED MONTHLY IN THE VALIANT VOICE

Solar, the Eternals, trapped by the Spider Aliens, escapes with one of the X-O Manowar armors originally possessed by the aliens.

MAR. 1991

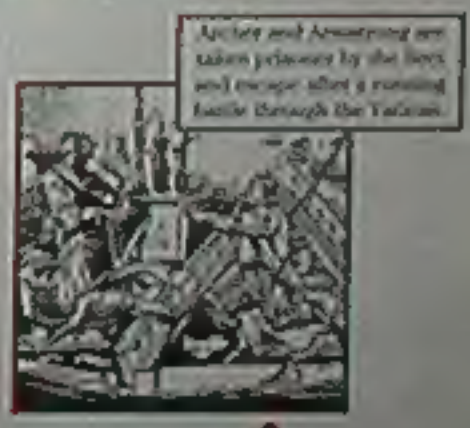
Solar defeats an alien warrior clad in Manowar armor. X-O armor. Leaving the armor on one of Europe's moons, he goes on to destroy the alien fleet.

NOV. 1991



MAR. 1992

APR. 1992



APR. 1992

~COMING THIS MONTH~

ARCHER & ARMSTRONG #15

By Mike Baron, Douglie Braithwaite, and Carlos Garzon
$2.50/$3.15 Canadian • Shipping from Sparta

The Boys' adventure in "LALA" land winds to a close as Bobby Ripp's murderer is revealed!

BLOODSHOT #9

By Kevin VanHook, Don Perlin, John Dixon and Jade
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian • Shipping from Ronalds

Jillian's disappearance while on a mission pits Bloodshot against a slavery ring spearheaded by an old enemy of Neville's.

DEATHMATE

YELLOW
$2.95/$3.75 Canadian • Shipping from Sparta

Four chapters from across the **DEATHMATE** universe written and rendered by the best of VALIANT's creative pool. This issue features: **Chapter One - Ivar and Armstrong** by Mike Baron, Bernard Chang and Rodney Ramos; **Chapter Two - Ninjak/Zealot** by Jorge Gonzalez, Don Perlin and Mike Manley; **Chapter Three - H.A.R.D.C.A.T.S.** (Hammerhead, Shatterpoint, Flatline, Grifter, Spartan and Zealot) by David Michelinie, Mike Lackie and Tom Ryder; **Chapter Four - Shadowman/Grifter** by Bob Hall, Mark Moretti and John Dixon.

ETERNAL WARRIOR #15

By Mark Moretti, Yvel Guichet and Rodney Ramos
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian • Shipping from Ronalds

Guest starrings: Bloodshot - Gilad and Bloodshot search for a designer drug lab, but all they find is trouble. **ETERNAL WARRIOR#15** and 16 are prequels to the "Empirical Dynasty" storyline in next month's **SECRET WEAPONS#3**.

HARBINGER #22

By Maurice Fontenot, Howard Simpson, Gonzalo Mayo and Maria Beccari
$2.50/$3.15 Canadian • Shipping from Sparta

Guest-Starring Archer and Armstrong - The kids go to Coney Island and meet two teenies from California - Archer and Armstrong.

H.A.R.D. CORPS #11

By David Michelinie, Yvel Guichet, and Dave Chlystek
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian • Shipping from Ronalds

"The OtherMan" strikes and has the H.A.R.D Corps members at each other's throats.

MEGA MAN #29

By John Ostrander, Jim Calafiore, Andrew Wendel and Mark Cuzzor
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian • Shipping from Sparta

A Malev slave labor camp brings back painful memories for Gilad.

FUTURE FORCE #14

By John Ostrander, Sean Chen, and Kathryn Bolinger
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian • Shipping from Sparta

Kai tries to bring together a divided community to fight the Malevs.

WARP #2

By Joe St. Pierre and Mike Cavallaro
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian • Shipping from Sparta

The Coming of the Darque Age (Pt. 3 of 3) - X-O, Unearth, and Stronghold battle Doctor Eclipse, while the others try to stop Darque and his army of the undead.

SHADOWMAN #18

By Bob Hall, John Dixon and Mike Cavallaro
$2.50/$3.15 Canadian • Shipping from Ronalds

Guest Starring Archer & Armstrong (Pt. 2 of 2) - Shadowman, Archer and Armstrong are drawn into a dangerous voodoo ritual in the bayous near New Orleans.

SOLAR #26

By Tony Bedard, Kevin VanHook, David Wong, and Fred Fredericks
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian • Shipping from Sparta

A dark secret from Solar's past threatens to destroy Phil and Gayle.

TUROK #4

By Tim Truman, Rags Morales, Randy Elliott and Jorge Gonzalez
$2.50/$3.15 Canadian • Shipping from Ronalds

Turok struggles to learn the fate of his people, and that of Andar, his trusted companion from the original Turok series.

X-O #21

By Jorge Gonzalez, Paris Karounos and Tom Ryder
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian • Shipping from Sparta

With Aric gone, Ax comes for the X-O armor and only Randy, She-Devil of War, can stop him.

VALIANT

COURTESY OF:

Next Issue:

Bernard Chang and Bob Layton talk with the VALIANT boys about *THE SECOND LIFE OF DR. MIRACLE*. We give you all the inside information on Armstrong's appearance in *SHADOWMAN #18*. The Art Auction continues and also included is a continental update on *DEATHMATE*.

See you in 30 days...